

- 9 -

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A conveying assembly for fruit handling equipment comprising:
  - 5 a carriage adapted to be attached to a conveying chain arranged to displace the carriage in a conveying direction,
  - a cup adapted to support a single piece of fruit, the cup being secured to the carriage via a
  - 10 parallelogram linkage extending transversely to the conveying direction,
  - the cup being pivotally secured to the linkage to be moveable from a conveying position to a discharge position,
  - 15 the linkage having release means to cause the cup to pivot relative to the linkage transversely of the conveying direction to the discharge position to effect discharge of the fruit,
  - the linkage allowing the cup to be vertically
  - 20 displaceable to effect weighting of the fruit.
2. The conveying assembly according to claim 1 wherein, a plurality of carriages are attached end to end along the conveying chain.
- 25 3. The conveying assembly according to claim 2 wherein, rollers are positioned adjacent either side of the cup in the conveying direction, the rollers being vertically displaceable to assume an upper position in
- 30 which the rollers lift the fruit clear of the cup.
4. The conveying assembly according to claim 3 wherein, each roller has an outwardly projecting centrally positioned sub-axle.
- 35 5. The conveying assembly according to claim 4 wherein, before the cups pass a photographic zone, the

- 10 -

rollers are held in the upper position by a first elongate surface that engages the stub axles.

6. The conveying assembly according to claim 5 wherein, at the photographic zone a friction surface engages the periphery of each roller to cause rotation of the rollers as they move relative to the friction surface to rotate the fruit at the upper position.

10 7. The conveying assembly according to claim 6 wherein, after the photographic zone a ramp supports each roller by the sub-axle to disconnect the periphery of the roller from the friction surface to allow the roller to free wheel to become stationary, the ramp then lowering  
15 the roller allowing fruit to return to the cup.

8. The conveying assembly according to any one of the preceding claims wherein, the cup has a concave support surface supported by a centrally positioned post,  
20 the post being pivotally secured to the carriage via the parallelogram linkage.

9. The conveying assembly according to claim 8 wherein, the parallelogram linkage comprises parallel'  
25 spaced upper and lower arms, each arm having ends pivotally connected to the post and the carriage.

10. The conveying assembly according to claim 9 wherein, the lower arm has an elbow joint constituting the  
30 release means which can be displaced to a bent configuration thus causing the post and cup to pivot to the discharge position.

11. The conveying assembly according to either claim  
35 9 or claim 10 wherein, the upper and lower arms of the parallelogram linkage constitute T-shaped members, the end of the leg of the T being pivotally secured to the post

- 11 -

with the head of the T being pivotally secured to spaced apart mounting flanges defined by the carriage.

12. The conveying assembly according to claim 11  
5 wherein, the leg of the upper arm has a foot projecting past the post which engages the carriage to hold the upper arm horizontal.

13. The conveying assembly according to claim 12  
10 wherein, at a weighing zone a ramp engages the base of each post to lift the post slightly about the parallelogram linkage to disengage the foot of the upper arm from the carriage to assume the weighing position.

14. The conveying assembly according to claim 13  
15 wherein, a load cell is positioned in the ramp whereby the base of each post is borne by the load cell to weigh the cup and fruit.

15. The conveying assembly according to any one of  
20 the preceding claims wherein, the carriage supports at least two transversely spaced apart cups.

16. The conveying assembly according to claim 15  
25 wherein, the rollers of transversely opposed cups are interconnected by a Z-shaped bar that is supported by the carriage to axially pivot to raise or lower the rollers relative to the carriage.

17. The conveying assembly according to claim 16  
30 wherein, the support of the bar allows a degree of vertical displacement of the bar.